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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R.  
§1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3739**

*J.H.  
4-7-6  
Entered w/LEE*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants:** Parris S. Wellman, et al.      **Examiner:** Michael F. Peffley  
**Serial No:** 10/615,152      **Art Unit:** 3739  
**Filed:** July 8, 2003      **Docket:** 14641Z (ETH-1559CONT)  
**For:** SURGICAL DEVICE FOR CLAMPING, LIGATING, AND SEVERING TISSUE      **Dated:** December 5, 2005

**Conf. No.:** 8263

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed September 28, 2005. Entry and consideration of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2005.

**Dated:** December 5, 2005

  
Dermott J. Cooke